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CITY OF PORTLAND
OREGON

TO THE COUNCIL.

Gentlemen:

Pursuant with (to) Article 3, Section 2-301, of the Charter of the City of Portland, I am communicating to the Council a general statement of the conditions and affairs of the city for the year ending December 31, 1956.

The Bureau of Police continued to function efficiently and effectively for the safety and protection of the people of Portland. The new building was occupied in October and relieved a badly congested housing situation. The Traffic and East Precincts, as well as other patrol and enforcement units, had previously been consolidated, but they were moved into their own offices, enabling them to carry on a more efficient operation.

The latest reports indicate that while enforcement in the Traffic Department has been decreased somewhat in comparison with last year, and while the accident frequency has increased, there is a slight decrease in fatal accidents. In regard to the crime situation, F. B. I. reports indicate that Portland is one of two cities in which the crime rate increase is being held at a minimum in comparison to the rest of the nation.

Probably the worst experience from a standpoint of crime increase has been in the southwest district, where records indicate there has been considerable increase in burglaries and robberies during the year.

Enforcement in respect to vice activities has remained about constant. There were 482 vice arrests during the first eleven months of this year, compared to 558 arrests in the same period last year.

Because this has been one of the busiest years in the history of the port in shipping, ship inspections by the Harbor Patrol increased 30 per cent, and the activity log shows a comparable increase. A recovered property report from this unit shows there has been a 22 per cent increase in recovered property.

The Harbor Patrol has practically completed the addition of minor accessories and similar attachments to the crash boat, "The Star", and is carrying on a major overhaul of Boat No. 3. The newest addition to the Harbor Patrol is Boat No. 1 which replaced the thirty-one-year-old "Mulkey".

The newly formed K-9 Corps has been exceptionally active this year. It was organized in April and is staffed with one sergeant, fifteen police officers and fifteen police dogs, which are providing the community with high grade as well as unusual type of police service. Officers of this Corps and their dogs patrol on foot and in automobiles during night-time hours, and assist other officers in situations where a dog may be useful. These situations or calls involve prowlers, peeping toms, burglary alarms, park patrol, escapees, stakeouts, persons barricaded and armed, and other such cases where the dog's use is invaluable.

Another unit which has undergone considerable change is the Detective Division, which had its records integrated with the Record Bureau, releasing three typist-clerks for re-assignment to the Record Bureau, and making possible a centralization of records previously hoped for, but never obtained in the Portland Police Bureau.

A chest X-ray unit installed in the Jail makes it possible to segregate from other prisoners those who have a tuberculosis experience.

Under the conditions prevailing this year, it is certain that only a department with as capable a staff of officers as the Portland Police Bureau could have maintained the high quality police work for which it has gained national recognition.

The Bureau of Health maintained its high standard of performance in safeguarding the health of the people during the year as evidenced by work done and made part of the record.

As of December 14, 1956 there was a total of 11,821 births in the City of Portland, of which 6,165 were residents of the city. During this period there were 4,712 deaths reported, of which 3,349 were residents. There were 296 infant deaths during 1956 as compared with 344 infant deaths in 1955, including both residents and non-residents. The infant mortality rate for Portland is 24.0 for 1956 as compared with 27.1 for 1955.

The activities of the Tuberculosis Division have become more diversified in keeping with the changing picture in tuberculosis control, and the broad basic programs of case-finding, diagnosis, health information, post-sanatorium care and treatment have been expanded.

A miniature X-ray unit installed in the City Jail in November should result in the finding of 80 to 100 new cases of tuberculosis during the first year of operation.

The utilization of the Oregon Tuberculosis and Health Association Mobile Unit at a fixed location once per month in the census tracts 51 and 54 resulted in the highest rate of positive findings of its entire operation. Census tracts 51, 54 and 57, with only 4% of the city population, account for 20% of all new cases and 33% of all deaths from tuberculosis within the city. Although the overall picture of tuberculosis control seems brighter, the volume of work has shown a steady increase, and continued efforts will be necessary to maintain the present gain.

The Bureau of Health continued to work closely with the School Administration in providing the necessary health services for the schools.

During the first eleven months of 1956 there were 19,908 patients admitted to nursing services provided by the Division of Public Health Nursing, with a total of 20,590 home visits and 31,971 office visits. Referrals of individuals amounting to 20,387 were made to private physicians, clinics, hospitals and other health agencies.

There were 345 patients admitted to Isolation Hospital for contagious diseases during the current year. And during the period from January to November, inclusive, there were 158 new venereal disease cases, 423 non-venereal cases and 197 follow-up visits on syphilitic cases, as reported by the Venereal Disease Control Division.

The food handlers school was conducted each month by the Sanitary Division with a total attendance of 5,000 persons during the year. Also this division continued to devote the time of one individual to air pollution control activities in following up complaints.

Sanitary supervision by the Meat Division has been provided for all the large animal slaughter establishments operating under city inspection, which provides approximately 40% of the dressed meat supplied the City of Portland. All other plants are under government inspection and these plants are periodically checked by the Chief of our Meat Inspection Service.

A total of 1,026 milk shippers is now under the City of Portland inspection. Of this number, 672 have farm tanks as compared with 354 can shippers. Degrading and regrading of shippers is essentially the same as last year.

The Insect Control Division again cooperated with several of the outlying communities and counties, both in Oregon and Washington, to provide an area

mosquito control program which resulted in good overall control.

Routine work in the Office of the City Attorney has been similar to that in former years with 1093 approvals as to form of bonds, insurance policies and certificates; 1043 approvals of other matters; 236 Council Calendar matters reported upon; 2110 communications written; 25 deeds prepared; 182 contracts; 86 written opinions; 864 ordinances drawn; and 51 resolutions prepared.

In the office at the Municipal Court, another heavy year of routine matters were handled with 12,955 cases disposed of on the Criminal Docket and 36,000 on the traffic side; 192 cases were appealed to the Circuit Court and 186 disposed of during the year.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1956, the three divisions of the Municipal Court processed a total of 43,500 cases, and the Violations Bureau handled 30,990 guilty pleas, making a total of 74,490 cases from which only 213 were appealed to the Circuit Court.

The Parking Tag Department collected a total of	\$233,354.50
while the Traffic and Safety Court Division and the Violations Bureau brought in a total of	388,946.25
The Criminal Court cases accounted for	86,973.50
Making a total net amount of	<u>\$709,274.25</u>

which was turned over by the Municipal Court to the City Treasury during the fiscal year.

There were 531 cases handled by the Parole and Probation Officer in 1956 compared with 422 in 1955. More than one half the people paroled were sentenced for Drunk offenses, and there is no question but what this is our Number One problem.

Portland continued to make significant gains in the establishment of its Civil Defense Program. Recognition of this was climaxed by the presentation of an award in September to the Mayor by the Federal Civil Defense Administrator for outstanding assistance to the Civil Defense Program.

The adequacy of Civil Defense planning was partially demonstrated during March when 61,000 families were temporarily deprived of gas service by fire. This Bureau took action to coordinate available resources through

city departments and private utilities to alleviate the crisis until gas services were resumed. Similar type coordination of efforts and plan development was experienced to cope with the flood threat occasioned by an unusually heavy spring run-off from the Columbia watershed.

The Operations Control Center was officially dedicated September 5 by Val Peterson, Federal Civil Defense Administrator. The Rescue Training Center at Kelly Butte was completed and formally accepted on November 12.

The Commission of Public Docks enjoyed an excellent fiscal year, and the volume of traffic continued upward. A total increase in tonnage of 6% for the fiscal year was registered, and the annual report shows that the Commission earned, or returned to surplus, a net of \$210,612.00 from the fiscal year operations.

The duties of the Housing Authority of Portland presently include the management and operation of 485 permanent low-rent housing units; 424 remaining temporary war-housing units, and the management and ultimate liquidation of surplus housing units, supplies, equipment and land belonging to the local Authority.

The other major responsibility is Urban Redevelopment, and perhaps the most important activity of this past year was the setting in motion of an Urban Renewal program.

The Exposition-Recreation Commission began the new year by selecting the South Auditorium site for the E-R Center, but the vote of the people in the May primary election determined an East Side location. Two other measures relating to the E-R Commission and Center on the November ballot were defeated. Subsequently, a court presided over by three judges determined that the May, 1956 election placed a limitation on the E-R Commission only to the extent of locating the facility on the East Side of the river, and their original powers and duties had not been impaired except to this one limitation. The E-R Commission is now waiting announcement whether the Multnomah County Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission will appeal this decision to the Supreme Court of the State of Oregon.

The financial report of the E-R Commission shows that total funds available are \$8,149,000.00, and that the Commission has received income from investments during 1956 of \$185,199.48. Total expenditures were \$27,049.85.

The Art Commission met regularly each month during the year except for a period during the summer, and a part of the meetings were devoted to the problem of the Skidmore fountain. Final recommendation of a site will be made when designs of the State Highway Commission are available. Several members of the Commission have been active in developing plans for one of the South Park Blocks as a memorial to Dr. Thomas Lamb Eliot.

The Aviation Commission held two scheduled meetings, conducted four telephone polls to replace meetings and engaged in the Portland University Citation Day and Review, and the luncheon for Edward R. Sharp of N. A. C. A. Four dockets on plane service were reviewed, and the Chairman of the Commission represented the City of Portland as Director of National Aeronautics Association at Kansas City.

The Commission on Inter-Group Relations held monthly meetings and is engaged in making a study of discrimination with regard to housing in the Portland area. No formal complaints of individual cases of discrimination have been filed during the year, and the overall picture of racial discrimination in this area seems to be improved over the situation as it existed a few years ago.

The Air Pollution Committee held nine meetings, and in its advisory capacity recommended to the Health Officer that a comprehensive plan for air pollution control in Portland should be developed and qualified assistance should be obtained, together with necessary equipment for carrying it out. An important survey of the air pollution situation in Portland was made by the U. S. Public Health Service, and another survey was made for Columbia Empire Industries, Inc. by the Stanford Research Institute.

The Bureau of Fire, under the supervision of Commissioner Stanley W. Earl, continued in 1956 the effective and progressive program of fire prevention and control of previous years. The Home Inspection Program initiated in Portland, was continued with considerable vigor. About 60,000 private homes were visited by uniformed firemen in an effort to further reduce dwelling house fires. About 24,000 commercial firms were visited on pre-fire surveys.

A decrease of more than one-quarter million dollars from arson and probable arson fires may be attributed in large part to the relentless investigation of fires believed to be of incendiary origin. There were 24 persons arrested for fire setting, and 12 convictions for arson.

One new 100' aerial ladder, one new compressor truck, and five new minor fire service vehicles were placed in service this year.

The Bureau of Communications and Electronics, under Commissioner Earl, continued its original plan of change-over from AM to FM two-way radio and reported that the following Bureaus now have two-way radio systems: Fire, Police, Water, Public Works, Civil Defense, and Traffic Engineering.

A bronze plaque was dedicated on September 6, 1956, in the Fifth Avenue vestibule of the City Hall by the Oregon Society of Daughters of American Colonists to mark the original site of St. Helens Hall and to commemorate the memory of Maria Clopton Jackson, early graduate, and her mother, Mary Boyd Clopton, an early teacher.

Many improvements and additions were made by the Bureaus in the Department of Public Utilities, under the supervision of Commissioner Nathan A. Boody. The Bureau of Water Works added twelve miles of mains to the distribution system, a net increase of four miles and making a total of 1,337 miles of main. Contracts were awarded for laying the second section of Southeast supply line; for core drilling for preliminary study on new dam and reservoir above headworks; for relining eight miles of Conduit #3, and for construction of Headworks Addition. During the past year many low pressure areas in the distribution system were corrected by the installation of additional or larger mains and during the past summer very few complaints were received on account of low pressure and insufficient water.

The improvement and modernization of the City's street lighting carried on by the Bureau of Light and Power has been going steadily forward during 1956. By the end of the year, a total of 105 miles of relighted arterial and other heavily traveled streets will have been completed, giving the city a total of more than 140 miles of streets with lighting intensities conforming to the recommendation of the "American Standard Practice for Street and Highway Lighting".

The Bureau of Sewage and Refuse Disposal reported 1,028,500 cu. yds. of refuse delivered to the municipal incinerator and to the refuse fill during the year by 232 licensed collectors and casual loads by homeowners and business concerns. This represents an increase of 3.7% over the previous year. At the Sewage Treatment Plant on Columbia Boulevard a total of 21,917 million gallons of sewage was clarified during the year and discharged into the Columbia River. This amounts to approximately 59.8 million gallons per day, an increase of 31% over the previous year.

The Department of Finance, under the leadership of Commissioner Ormond R. Bean, moved forward along many lines during the year, too numerous to mention in this brief report.

The Bureau of Parks reported a slight increase in the number of people who used the park and recreational facilities during the year. For example, the boys' baseball program expanded this year to 34 leagues, consisting of 330 teams and 6,500 players. Good leadership of the boxing program at the Knott Street Community Center has resulted in a daily average of approximately 100 boxers reporting for instruction each day. There was considerable accomplished in construction, major rehabilitation, and new area development. A total of 74,2236 acres were added to the park system during the year.

The total play on both golf courses was greater this year than in 1955, and this fact, combined with a slight increase in greens fees in mid-year, resulted in an increase in revenues of \$8,737.50. Attendance was up 2.5% and revenues were up 8%.

Present plans call for removal of all exhibits from the old zoo to the new by October, 1957.

The Public Auditorium was ^{used} 220 times during the year. Extensive repairs are being made to the fire escapes and stairs on the rear and north sides of the building.

The Bureau of Property Control reports that The Oregon Insurance Rating Bureau has re-rated all city-owned buildings at a considerable saving to the City in rate reductions. Also, that the central salvage depot is a great saving to the city, as 90% of all surplus equipment now being turned over for disposal is being repaired and re-issued to the bureaus in lieu of new purchases.

The Safety Program is carried on by the Employe Relations Office, and again resulted in considerable savings to the City, especially significant being the reduction in the number of automobile accidents while the number of miles traveled during the year increased.

The physical growth of the City during the past year has been reflected in the activities of the Department of Public Works, under the direction of Commissioner Wm. A. Bowes. Improvements include 10.42 miles of street; 144,728 square feet of sidewalk; 39,918 linear feet of curb, and 20.6 miles of sewer, including the Multnomah system. The Paving Plant resurfaced 16 miles of city streets with asphaltic pavement.

The Street Cleaning Division reported 609,164 city blocks cleaned by hand, patrol or machine; 36,305 city blocks flushed; 615 cubic yards of sand used for sanding streets. Portland had nine inches of snow on the ground for two days during January. Street crews were kept on the plows and used 1,091 manhours in plowing the streets in the West Hill.

The Planning Commission is nearing completion of a comprehensive plan for the St. Johns area, and also is in the final states of preparation of a basic planning study entitled 'Economic Prospects of the Portland Area' which analyzes the past, present and future potentialities of Portland. Work is also progressing on a comprehensive Park Development Plan for Portland. An Urban Renewal Division of the City Planning Commission has been organized, and it is estimated that the primary project report work on the South Auditorium Site will be completed by June, 1957.

On May 1, 1956, the new zoning ordinance, as approved by the Citizens Committee, was presented to Commissioner Bowes. The new ordinance has been approved by the Planning Commission and reviewed by the City Attorney, and it is anticipated that the final draft will be as transmitted to the Council by January 1, 1957.

The Bureau of Buildings issued 7,008 building permits for a total valuation of \$45,659,317.00. Of this, there were 105 single-family dwellings valued at \$10,415,270.00. Also 11 new churches valued at \$1,322,295.00; 4 major church additions valued at \$396,000.00; 1 new college center valued at \$681,000.00; 1 convent valued at \$69,000.00 and 1 college dormitory valued at \$50,000.00.

The Bureau of Traffic Engineering is responsible for the engineering, installation and maintenance of all pedestrian, parking and moving traffic control devices within the city, and the major expenditures of this bureau are for maintenance of these devices spread over 1,336 miles of streets.

It has been a busy year for the Traffic Safety Commission, seeking to discharge the responsibility assigned by city charter for a community-wide program of traffic safety education and coordination of education, engineering and enforcement in the interest of accident prevention. Approximately sixty citizens serve on the Commission and its various committees.

Outstanding among new projects was the sponsorship of the First Annual Portland Area Teen-Age Traffic Safety Conference held in February, which drew 142 young people representing 27 high schools in and around Portland. The Commission also cooperated with the Portland Automotive Trades Association in sponsoring a May vehicle safety-check program, which proved to be an award-winning project.


Throughout the year the Commission gave assistance to many community safety projects, including the Junior Chamber of Commerce Teen-Age Road-E-O, Franklin High School's Safety-Economy Run, Fleet Supervisors Training Programs, activities of the Oregon Highway Lifesavers, and the National Home Demonstration Council's Safety Seminar for Western States.

Working through public information media of all types the Traffic Safety Commission conducted a year around program to alert people to accident causes and how to avoid them, to stimulate adoption of safe habits and attitudes, and create new interest and support for official programs. One effective method is in the pedestrian school conducted each Tuesday evening in Council Chambers which had an average attendance of 1,000 persons per month.

Several national awards were presented to Portland during 1956 in recognition of outstanding traffic safety efforts.

With continued sound management and administration of the affairs of the city government, and with continued interest and cooperation of the people, Portland will enjoy steady, healthy growth in the future, as in the past.

Respectfully submitted,


MAYOR